

Darrel Echtenaw July 26, 1975. They live in South Salt Lake and have a darling daughter, Ann.

I've lived in Indianola all my life and live on the family farm. I love farming and tending my small flock of sheep.

I did work away, at Geneva Steel Co., for 12 years to supplant our income but I still worked my farm.

Our family is very close and we enjoy get-togethers and fishing, hunting, and going on trips together.

I've been on some lovely trips. I've been to 18 foreign countries and on three Caribbean Cruises, besides seeing a lot of the United States.

I've been active in the county, serving for years on ASC and FHA Committees. I am a member of Fairview North Ward and Fairview Lions Club.

My hobbies are reading, painting, fishing and hunting, playing my guitar and singing.

Dreary, gray desolation is all that remains of a town called Thistle

THISTLE JUNCTION — The town of Thistle, swallowed for six months under the waters of Thistle Lake, emerged as a sorry gray ghost of itself this week as draining of the lake brought the water level down 34 feet.

The scene is one of devastation. Deserted houses, some with collapsed roofs, stick out of the remaining silt and sand. Toppled cottonwood trees and incredible amounts of driftwood and debris are everywhere.

Interior views are no less discouraging. The houses are half full of silt, walls have collapsed, cabinet doors lean awry and nothing appears salvageable.

The lake is now about 150 yards away from the homes, but the river still meanders through the town, washing away the silt from one side of a house, but leaving it piled almost to the roof on the other side. Silt banks form along the stream and slough off now and then with an eerie thud.

Cracked patterns form in the clay on higher ground, exposed to the sunlight now for several days after its six-

month underwater burial.

And everywhere the color is the same — silt-gray.

To residents who lost their homes and much of their belongings when the mudslide blocked Spanish Fork Canyon last April, damming the river and drowning their town, the ravaged house frames sunk in the silt are a discouraging sight.

But they are not letting the disaster get them down. Most of them are fighting back and making a new life for themselves. A few even talk of returning to Thistle.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pace, who probably lost the most expensive house in the disaster, have been back to their property above the water line almost every day since they were forced from their home.

Pace has been rebuilding sheds and barns and is talking of rebuilding a home as soon as he receives insurance money and money from the state and Denver & Rio Gran-

Biglers home after tour

Mr. and Mrs. John (Bud) Bigler of Indianola returned February 1 from a 21 day trip to Tahiti, Australia and New Zealand.

They left the midwinter climate of Utah and spent two days in tropical Tahiti before flying on to Sydney, Australia where they found 102 degree temperatures. A harbor cruise and trips to the Opera House and zoo in Sydney, visits to the Outback Country at Dubbo and visits to sheep and cattle ranches were on the itinerary to the city of Young and then to Australia's capitol, Canberra.

After ten days, a flight took them to Christ church, New Zealand, the South Island, where beautiful scenery and flowers prevail, and where farm animals outnumber the inhabitants by 25 to 1. The year-around mild climate and abundant rainfall make this ideal grazing country.

They saw the Tasman glacier from close-up when their plane landed directly on the glacier.

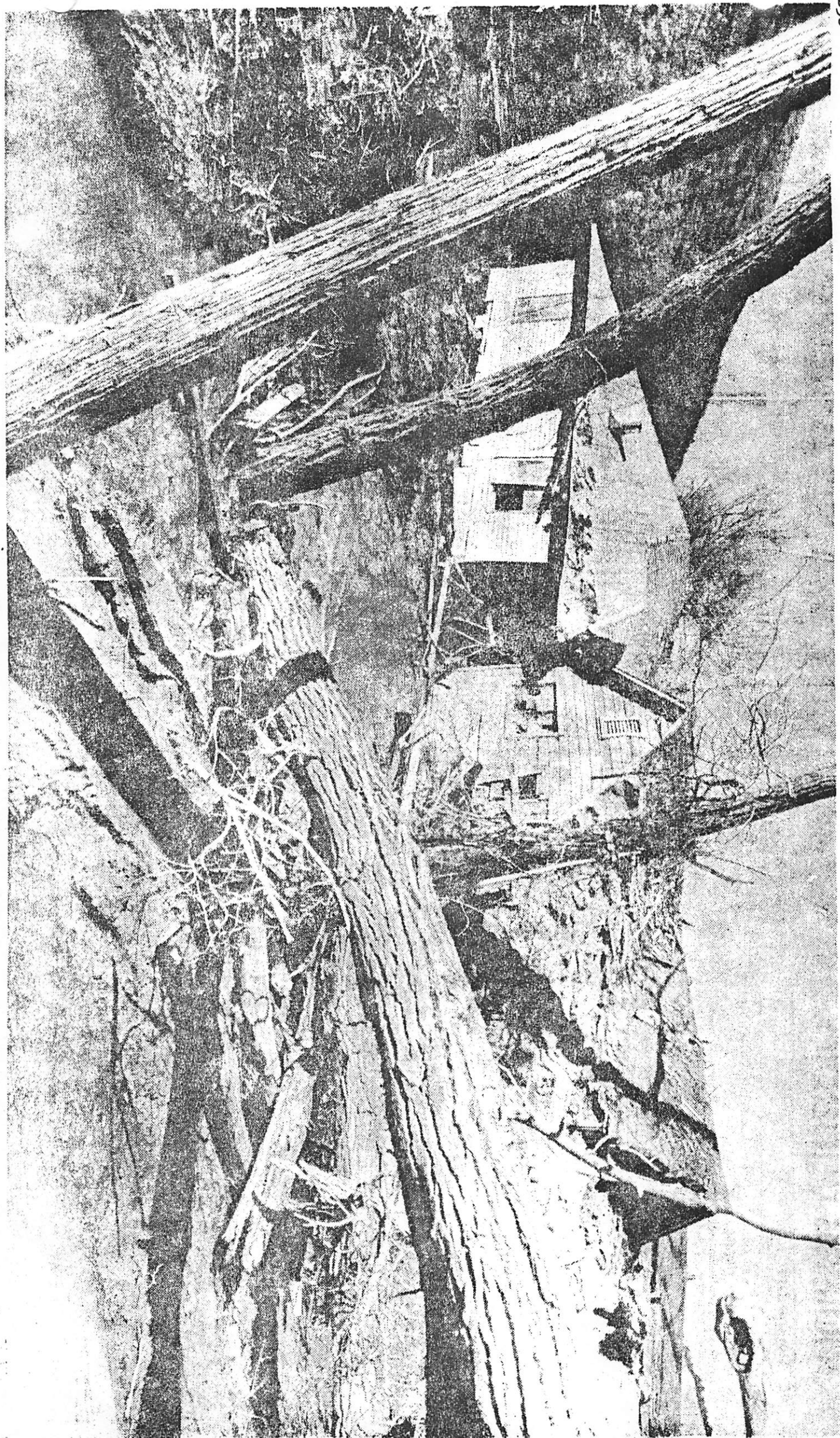
At Invercargill lambs were being loaded for export and a visit was made to the largest freezing plant in the world where over one million lambs are handled each season. The Biglers also visited several farms in the area and were always treated to "tea" which turned out to be a full lunch.

Waitomo, the Glow Worm Caves, Lake Taupo, a hydro-electric plant and a Maori village were spots of interest on their tour of the north island. At the Agradome 13 different types of sheep, none of which are raised in our area, were seen, and a world champion sheep shearer removed the woolly coat from a sheep in just 60 seconds.

The Biglers were particularly interested in watching the sheepdogs perform and attended a National competition in Rotorua. In that area are many hot mineral springs, boiling mud pools and geysers and a large number of the homes are heated with this energy source.

The highlight of the trip, according to Bud and Norma, was a three day stay with Sam and Mary Bill and their sons on their farm. With the Bill family they visited the New Zealand LDS Temple and visitors center and other spots of interest.

A trip by coach to Auckland, and a sight-seeing tour of that, the island's largest city, wound up their pleasant trip and they returned home to winter in snowy Utah to visit with a daughter LuAnn Ecktinaw of Phoenix, Ariz. who had been staying at their home while they were away.



Once a neat frame home in a verdant valley, house in Thistle is now a dreary reminder of disaster, surrounded by twisted trees, mud and remnant of river. June 1983